

## *The President's Daily Brief*

*14 August 1971*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 August 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Berlin negotiations have generated new momentum toward an accord. (Page 1)

Moscow is reacting vigorously to Peking's cultivation of Balkan governments. (Page 2)

Laotian Government forces have met stiff enemy resistance in the south but have continued to advance slowly on the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 3)

Jordan

Syria

(Page 4)

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Bolivia. (Page 4)

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY****BERLIN TALKS**

*The negotiations among the four ambassadors this week generated new momentum toward an accord, but several problems still remain. Moscow is still reluctant to satisfy the Allies regarding its responsibility for guaranteeing unimpeded access and is still arguing for East German spot checks of West German travelers and sealed shipments. The Soviets show no sign of agreeing to let West Berliners travel in the USSR on West German passports. The Soviets have suggested a new formula that might open a way around the impasse over Federal German presence in West Berlin, but they are still reluctant to agree in advance to all of the steps that would be involved.*

*The next ambassadorial meeting, scheduled for Monday, may show whether this week's forward movement will be maintained. A direct confrontation over the Soviet desire for a consulate in West Berlin has so far been avoided by discussing other sections first. Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov told the Allies at Tuesday's session that he could not accept a Berlin agreement that did not include a Soviet Consulate-General. The Allied position is that a consulate will be considered only if satisfactory wording is reached on other sections of the agreement.*

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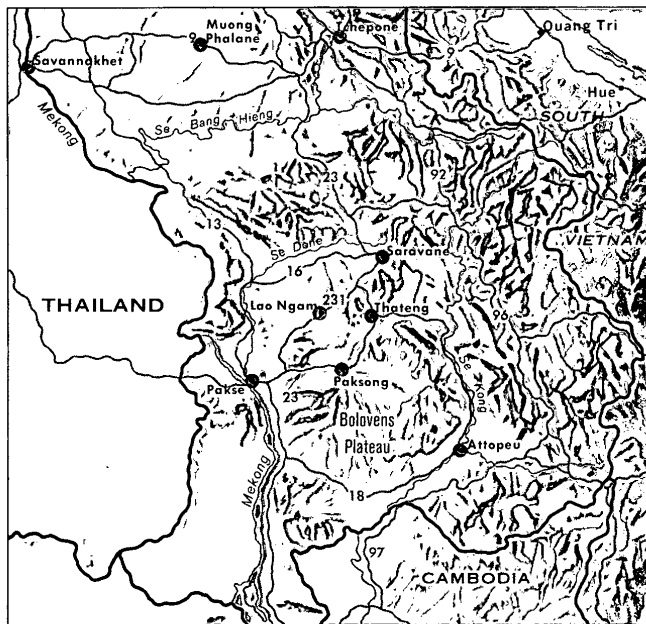
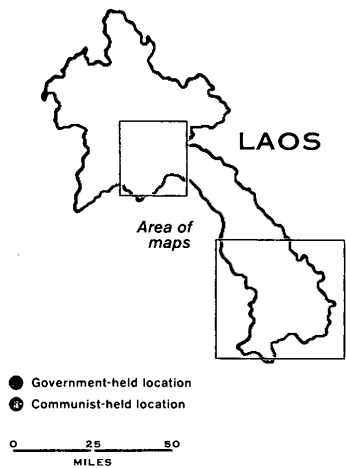
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### USSR-CHINA-BALKANS

*Moscow is responding more vigorously to Peking's efforts to erode Soviet influence in the Balkans. Romania has now been linked with the Balkan heretics--Albania and Yugoslavia--in a Soviet-inspired warning to recalcitrants who continue to cultivate relations with the Chinese.*

*Yesterday a Hungarian newspaper, clearly at Soviet behest, reported that Chou En-lai planned to visit Tirana, Belgrade, and Bucharest this fall. (There is no confirmation of this, although there have been other reports to this effect.) The article warned that if this should result in an "anti-Soviet axis," an "extremely dangerous situation" would be created.*

*The Hungarians are particularly vulnerable to Soviet pressure on this score because they too have been attempting to improve relations with China. The Soviets recently forced Hungarian Premier Fock to cancel a trip he had been planning to make to Peking.*



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LAOS

Three Lao Army battalions which were hit hard by North Vietnamese units on 11 August have been forced to abandon their attempt to move from the northwest toward Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau. Stiff enemy resistance has also blocked government attempts to overrun Communist positions west of Paksong. In Saravane, just north of the Plateau, efforts are being made to re-establish the civilian government following reoccupation of the town by government forces. [redacted] two North Vietnamese units are now in the area south of the town.

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In north Laos on the Plaine des Jarres, some of Vang Pao's irregular units are now about two miles from Khang Khay, one of the tentatively-agreed sites for Lao peace talks, should they get under way.

Prime Minister Souvanna announced yesterday that his intentions as of that time were to respond to the latest Communist message by suggesting that the Communists appoint a plenipotentiary representative empowered to begin negotiations. He said he intended to reply only because he does not want to break contact with the Communists and that he expects no positive response from the Pathet Lao.


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NOTES

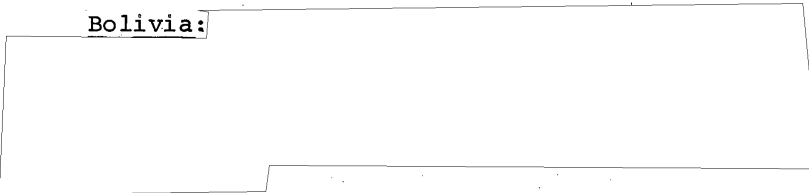
Jordan-Syria:

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 Syria  
used jet aircraft against Jordanian tanks yesterday.  
As of early this morning we had no reports of re-  
newed fighting.

Bolivia:

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